



# The QUARtermaster GENERAL'S UPDATE



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QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF THE QUARtermaster CORPS

JANUARY-MARCH 2009

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Fellow Quartermasters:

31 March 2009

I look forward to seeing you at the 2009 Quartermaster Symposium at Fort Lee, Virginia, from 15-20 June. If you haven't made your plans yet, please make it a priority. This year's theme is "Year of the NCO, Celebrating the Quartermaster NCO." The symposium is geared to update attendees on recent developments in sustainment doctrine and equipment, and to facilitate discussion on specific issues and concerns raised by the operating and generating forces. The symposium will be held in conjunction with the following special events: Quartermaster Warrant Officer Conference (15-17 June), Quartermaster Command Sergeants Major/Sergeants Major Conference (16-17 June), Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) Commander's Conference (16 June – Tentative), and the 2009 Association of the United States Army Logistics Symposium, Richmond, Virginia (16-18 June).

Symposium activities begin the afternoon of 17 June with training department and program manager displays. In addition to a superb guest speaker list, we will conduct a dedication ceremony, a NCO led regimental review, and a tour of the new Headquarters, CASCOM, home of the Sustainment Center of Excellence. Events culminate on 19 June with the US Quartermaster Foundation sponsored dinner and Regimental Honors Program recognition ceremony, followed by a golf scramble on 20 June. We welcome spouse participation and have developed an exciting agenda for their enjoyment.

Annually, the Quartermaster Corps sets out to recognize the outstanding contributions of our most distinguished members and units. I know we have many dedicated Quartermasters throughout the Army who work tirelessly to ensure we live up to our motto "Supporting Victory." These Soldiers, Civilians, and units have ensured the success of our Army, and their many contributions and efforts should not go unrecognized. Nominations of deserving personnel and units for induction as Members of the Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Distinguished Members of the Regiment, and Distinguished Units of the Regiment are being received. Recipients will be formally recognized during the Quartermaster Foundation dinner on 19 June 2009.

You can find information on the 2009 Quartermaster Symposium (including agendas, registration forms, and lodging recommendations) on the US Army Quartermaster Center and School web site: <http://www.quartermaster.army.mil>. If you have any questions regarding the 2009 Quartermaster Symposium, please contact CPT Lynessa Betts, Regimental Adjutant, at (804) 734-3533 (DSN 687) or [lynessa.betts@us.army.mil](mailto:lynessa.betts@us.army.mil); or LTC(P) Rick Harney, Chief, Office of the Quartermaster General, at (804) 734-4178 (DSN 687) or [robert.harney@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.harney@us.army.mil).

Additionally, I want to congratulate the winners of the 2009 Philip A. Connelly Awards for Excellence in Army Food Service support. You can read about the winners in this UPDATE.

I greatly appreciate your continued support of our Corps and look forward to seeing you, our great Soldiers and Civilians this June. Please let me hear your comments, suggestions, questions, and critiques. I can be contacted by telephone at (804) 734-3458 (DSN 687) or [jesse.cross@us.army.mil](mailto:jesse.cross@us.army.mil).



Supporting Victory!

Jesse R. Cross  
Brigadier General, US Army

## **2009 QUARTERMASTER REGIMENTAL HONORS PROGRAM**

Annually, the Quartermaster Corps sets out to recognize the outstanding contributions of our most distinguished members and units. Accordingly, we have begun accepting nominations of deserving personnel and units for induction as Members of the Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Distinguished Members of the Regiment, and Distinguished Units of the Regiment. Regimental Honors Program nominations must be submitted by 15 April 2009. We will formally recognize all selected individuals and units during the Quartermaster Foundation dinner on 19 June 2009. You can find information on the 2009 Quartermaster Regimental Honors Program (including eligibility, criteria, processing and submission procedures, and other requirements) on the US Army Quartermaster Center and School website: <http://www.quartermaster.army.mil>. If you have any questions regarding the 2009 Quartermaster Symposium or Regimental Honors Program, please contact CPT Lynessa Betts, Regimental Adjutant, at (804) 734-3533 (DSN 687) or [lynessa.betts@us.army.mil](mailto:lynessa.betts@us.army.mil); or LTC(P) Rick Harney, Chief, Office of the Quartermaster General, at (804) 734-4178 (DSN 687) or [robert.harney@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.harney@us.army.mil).

## **FY09 SELECTION BOARD UPDATE**

Headquarters, Department of the Army recently released the following 2009 selection board schedule for Active and Reserve components:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>Active Component</b>	<b>Reserve Component *=IRR **=AGR</b>
COL	Promotion	7-24 Jul 09	11 Mar-1 Apr 09
COL	Command	13-20 Jan 09	3-10 Feb/12-19 Aug 09/20-26 Aug 09**
COL/LTC	Senior Service College	31 Mar-17 Apr 09	9-25 Sep 09
LTC	Promotion	18 Feb-13 Mar 09	8-23 Sep 09
LTC	Command	22 Sep-7 Oct 09	16-26 Jun 09**
MAJ	Promotion	21 Jan-13 Feb 09	9-25 Mar 09
CPT	Promotion	21 Oct-5 Nov 09	4 Nov-14 Nov 09
CW3/4/5	Promotion	21 Jan-6 Feb 09	14-21 Apr 09
CSM/SGM	Promotion	9-28 Jun 09	5-14 Aug 09*/10-26 Jun 09**
MSG	Promotion	5 Aug-28 Aug 09	5-14 Aug 09*/1-18 Dec 09**
SFC	Promotion	3-27 Feb 09	5-14 Aug 09*/17-27 Feb 09**
SSG	Promotion	NA	5-14 Aug 09*

For additional information, please contact your appropriate Human Resources Command Career Manager. The POC is LTC(P) Rick Harney, (804) 734-4178 (DSN 687) or [robert.harney@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.harney@us.army.mil).

## **FY09 CAPTAINS SELECTION BOARD RESULTS**

The following statistics reflect the results of the FY09 Captain Board, active component, released on 12 February 2009:

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Total Considered</b>	<b>Total Selection</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Ordnance	220	213	97%
Quartermaster	247	244	99%
Transportation	244	239	98%
Total (Logistics Corps)	711	696	98%
Total (Active Army)	4,261	4,220	99%

The POC is CPT Joanna Mosby, (804)734-3441 (DSN 687) or [Joanna.mosby@us.army.mil](mailto:Joanna.mosby@us.army.mil).

**MAJOR CHANGES TO FY 2009 FEDERAL OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL PROGRAM SELECTION  
CRITERIA AND BOARD CONVENING INFORMATION**

On 9 December 2008, The Department of the Army issued MILPER Message Number 08-313, subject FY 09 Federal Officer Candidate School (OCS) Program. The message provides information about the OCS program and Active Component Soldier eligibility, application requirements, waivers, selection, and branching procedures. **This guidance rescinds the list of requirements for OCS selection consideration published in the Career News article “Wanted: More Officer Candidates and Coaches and Mentors for them” of the Winter 2008 edition of the Quartermaster Professional Bulletin.**

The message announces several major changes to the Federal OCS Program for the remainder of FY 09 and 1st quarter of FY 10, most notable are the following:

- Applicants must not have reached their 38th birthday by Human Resources Command (HRC) application receipt time (waiverable to the 40th birthday at the time of application submission).
- All applicants, to include General Officer direct select applicants, must appear before a local structured interview board.
- Applicants requiring waivers are not eligible for General Officer direct selection.
- Applicants must have a minimum of 90 non-duplicate semester hours of college leading to a specified degree (this requirement may change to a minimum four-year degree to be announced in a subsequent message).
- Applicants must have chain of command recommendations.
- Recruiters and Initial Entry Training Drill Sergeants/Platoon Sergeants cannot apply until the final six months of their tours (non-waiverable).
- Reserve Component Soldiers in any capacity are ineligible for this program.
- Applicants not possessing a four-year degree must have a Scholastic Assessment Test score of 850 or better, or an American College Test score of 19 or better (non-waiverable). Test results must not be over 6-years old at the time of application.

In addition to the above listed major application requirement changes, HRC has established the following FY 09 OCS selection/branching board schedule (General Officer direct select applicants also appear before these boards):

- 10-14 Aug 09 (packets must arrive at HRC NLT 10 Jul 09).
- 16-20 Nov 09 (packets must arrive at HRC NLT 12 Oct 09).

The HRC POC is Ms. Jaime Boyd at (703) 325-1784 or [jaime.boyd@us.army.mil](mailto:jaime.boyd@us.army.mil). The QMC&S POC is CPT Joanna Mosby at (703) 325-3441 (DSN 687) or [joanna.mosby@us.army.mil](mailto:joanna.mosby@us.army.mil)

**FY09 QUARTERMASTER CORPS APPROVED TRAINING WITH INDUSTRY (TWI) POSITIONS**

Army Human Resources Command (HRC) has begun accepting nominations for four active duty officer, three warrant officer, and one noncommissioned officer Quartermaster proponent TWI positions for FY09:

Industry	Rank	Military Occupational Specialty
Logistics Management Institute	CPT	92A
ExxonMobil	CPT	92F
Sunoco Inc.	CPT	92F
Labatt Food Service	CPT	92A
LMI	CW2/3	920A/B
Compass Group	CW2/3	922A
Airborne Systems North America	CW2/3	921A
The Culinary Institute of America	SSG/SFC	92G

Selected individuals will report to their respective industry the summer of 2009 for a one-year tour of duty followed by a three year pre-determined utilization assignment. Interested Soldiers need to contact their HRC

assignment officer or career manager. The POC is Mr. Jim Tolbert, (804) 734-3697 (DSN 687) or james.tolbert@us.army.mil.

### ***92G TRAINING WITH INDUSTRY (TWI) PROGRAM SEEKS APPLICANTS***

The 92G Training with Industry Program is designed to immerse a noncommissioned officer (NCO) in a commercial culinary school environment. Applications are to be submitted to the Office of the Quartermaster General NLT 4 May 2009. The NCO chosen for the program is placed in a military liaison position where he/she will assist in the integration of all Department of Defense (DOD) personnel at the Culinary Institute of America from 1 August 2009 through 31 July 2010. The participant will provide information and assistance to any students who desire to join the Army. The NCO will also develop policy for integration of training within DOD. In addition, the NCO will learn industry techniques for advanced culinary principles and apply them to the Army's Food Service Program. The intent is for the participant to learn what and how the higher level culinary school teaches and apply that knowledge during assignment to Fort Lee.

- Assignments are currently 12 months at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York, with a 24-month follow-on assignment to Fort Lee, Virginia.
- Participant will gain ProChef Certification.
- As a liaison, the participant will create and maintain partnerships and involvement with industry leaders.
- The participant will be required to develop a curriculum for the Culinary Arts Program and develop Programs of Instruction.

Applications must be submitted no later than 4 May 2009. For detailed information about eligibility and submitting an application, contact SSG Arnetra Hughes. The POC is SSG Arnetra Hughes at (804) 734-4330 (DSN 687) or arnetra.hughes@us.army.mil.

### ***THEATER LOGISTICS STUDIES PROGRAM (TLog)***

The Theater Logistics Studies Program or TLog (formerly known as the Logistics Executive Development Course) is the premier operational logistics course. This challenging 19-week course, based on case studies and high-level speakers, prepares senior logistics captains and majors to occupy key logistics planning positions within the support operations shops of theater support commands and expeditionary support commands, as well as designated positions on theater and expeditionary level logistics staffs. Attending students can also earn a master's degree in logistics management through a cooperative degree program with Florida Institute of Technology. The next TLog class begins August 2009. The Sustainment Center of Excellence (formally US Army Combined Arms Support Command) recently initiated a proposal recognizing TLog completion as an additional skill identifier. This action is pending staffing at Headquarters, Department of the Army and should be approved before the next class starts. Interested officers should check with the appropriate career manager for program information. The Army Logistics Management College POC is Mr. Ken Cox, (804) 765-4752 (DSN 687) or leetlog@conus.army.mil. The POC is LTC(P) Rick Harney at (804) 734-4178 (DSN 687) or robert.harney@us.army.mil.

### ***JOINT MORTUARY AFFAIRS CENTER (JMAC) OFFERS EXPORTABLE TRAINING***

The JMAC is offering courses that can be taught at your local site rather than at Fort Lee, and while all temporary duty costs for the instructor must be provided by the unit, it will still save your unit money in the process. A variety of courses from the Quartermaster Center and School are available through mobile training teams. A three-day mobile training team course has been developed to address the responsibilities of commanders when they suffer a combat loss within their unit. This has been a very important course for deploying units. If you are interested in arranging this training for your unit, please enter your requirements in the Army Training Requirements Resource System. If you encounter difficulties, call (804) 734-5312 or DSN 687-5312. Also, the 80-hour, two-week Joint Mortuary Affairs Officer Course (8BSI4V) is a popular way for units to provide in-depth training for their officers. This course is normally taught in residence, but has been taken on the road successfully in the past. The POC for more information on this course and arrangements to have it brought to you is Mr. William Ellerman, (804) 734-3670 or DSN 687-3670 or william.ellerman@us.army.mil.



### ***PETROLEUM AND WATER DEPARTMENT (PWD) SUPPORTS JOINT TRAINING***

In ongoing support of the Joint Warfighter, the PWD continues to provide tactical ground and rotary-wing aircraft fuel training, facilities and equipment support to the United States Navy. Thus far for FY09, PWD has supported two iterations of the Navy's Unit Level Training Readiness Assessment (ULTRA) Program. The ULTRA program is designed to train both enlisted Sailors and Naval officers on equipment and doctrine pertaining to operating ground and rotary-wing aircraft fuel sites ashore. The ULTRA program is designed to train and certify US Naval units for possible deployment in support of United States Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army forces within any given theater of operation. The POC is Mr. Robert Lias, (804) 734-2618 (DSN 687) or robert.lias@us.army.mil.

### ***PETROLEUM AND WATER DEPARTMENT (PWD) - 923A WARRANT ADVANCE COURSE UPDATE***

The PWD's Laboratory Training Division recently completed the 923A Petroleum Systems Technician Advance Warrant Officer Course lessons plans and examination automated initiative. The automated laboratory portion of the course consists of quality surveillance and assurance in joint operations, petroleum laboratory equipment overview, laboratory safety considerations and correlation testing, advance petroleum additives, a comprehensive petroleum quality exercise, and advanced petroleum laboratory examination. The information recently became available in the Automated Systems Approach to Training database. The POC is Mr. Jose Hernandez, (804) 734-2626 (DSN 687) or jose.hernandez@us.army.mil.

### ***PROPERTY BOOK UNIT SUPPLY ENHANCED - AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY (PBUSE-AIT)***

The PBUSE-AIT is a basic building block in the Department of Defense to improve asset management and visibility at the tactical level. The PBUSE-AIT media includes barcodes, radio frequency identification, satellite tracking, optical memory cards, and contact memory buttons. PBUSE-AIT enables the use of these media through automated transmission, which allows the Warfighter a more efficient capability at the tactical level to track, inventory and control, and document the deployment of personnel and materiel. This state-of-the-art web-based property accountability system provides real time information at different levels of supply management by a permission control capability for both tactical and garrison environments. The first fielding of PBUSE-AIT came with Software Change Package (SCP) 6.3.1 to the Quartermaster Center and School with follow-on release to the user community in September 2008. The QMC&S, Logistics Training Department, 92Y Training Division started teaching PBUSE-AIT in its Unit Supply Specialist, 92Y10 Advanced Individual Training Course in January 2009. This means that AIT 92Y10 Soldiers are getting "hands on" experience with PBUSE-AIT equipment before they arrive at their first unit assignment. A total of 5.5 hours of PBUSE-AIT training is provided to each Soldier attending the course. AIT capability is targeted for the unit level user, but can be employed at the property book level. Specifically, PBUSE-AIT provides automated inventories for cyclic, sensitive, 100 percent, ad hoc, and sub-hand receipt capabilities. The functionality to identify discrepancies based on the inventory is also a PBUSE-AIT capability. Later PBUSE-AIT SCPs will incorporate request, receipt, turn-in and lateral transfer capabilities. The POC is Mr. Steve Pawlick, (804-734-3481 (DSN 687) or steve.pawlick@us.army.mil.

### ***ELECTRONIC POLICY SEARCH TOOL DEVELOPED***

The US Army Logistics Innovation Agency (LIA), the field-operating agency of Headquarters, Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, set out to remedy the cumbersome methods of researching Army logistics policy. LIA has developed a logistics electronic policy search tool called the Enterprise Policy and Process Interactive Capability (EPIC). EPIC is a web-based tool that enables instant access to Army logistics policies, regulations, and processes using a text search capability that is specifically built to extract relevant portions of Army logistics documents, G-4 regulations and pamphlets, and the Defense Transportation Regulation based on the user's search criteria. EPIC is on the Internet and can be located at <http://epic.expr.net>. It is a free service to anyone who wants to use it. So why spend hours searching regulations when you can spend seconds retrieving accurate, concise information through EPIC? The POC is Mr. Demetrius (De) Glass, EPIC project lead for the Logistics Innovation Agency, (717) 770-4776 (DSN 771) or de.glass@us.army.mil.

### ***INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA INSTRUCTION (IMI) PRODUCTS***

The Army G-4 has formed the Property Accountability Task Force (PATF). The PATF initiated the IMI products in an effort to enhance learning about property accountability policy and habits. These interactive multi-media products can be found at the following locations:

- 92A Basic Supply Principles Course <https://atiam.train.army.mil/>
- 92A10 Non-Automated Sustainment Training Course <https://www.lms.army.mil/>
- 92A30 Supply Management Training Course <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/index.html>
- 92Y10 Unit Supply Specialist Course <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/index.html> and <https://atiam.train.army.mil/>
- 92Y20 Intermediate Level Unit Supply Procedures Course <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/index.html>
- 92Y30 Unit Supply Specialist IMI Sustainment Training <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/atrrscc/>
- Report of Survey Officer Orientation Course <https://atiam.train.army.mil/>
- Financial Liability Officer Orientation Course <https://atiam.train.army.mil/>
- Unit Armorer Course <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/index.html>
- S-4 Staff Officer Course <https://www.lms.army.mil/>
- Property Accountability for Leaders in the Contemporary Operating Environment Course <https://www.lms.army.mil/>

The POC is Mr. Winston C. (Chuck) Mullins, Combined Arms Support Command, Training Directorate, Phone: (804) 765-1947 (DSN 539) 1947 or [winston.mullins@us.army.mil](mailto:winston.mullins@us.army.mil).

### ***Aerial Delivery and Field Service Department (ADFSD)***

The ADFSD, Instructional Division, trains officers and enlisted personnel from all branches of the armed services, allied nations and civilians as parachute riggers; airdrop and sling load inspectors; and shower, laundry and clothing repair specialists. In addition, the Instructional Division is providing mobile training teams (MTTs) to units requesting instruction through the Army Training Requirements and Resources System. Instruction is provided as a part of Army force generation and reset on RAM Air (packing the MC-4 Free Fall Parachute System [Main and Reserve]), Sling Load operations, Low Cost Low Altitude training, and the Airdrop Load Inspector Certification Course. The POC is Mr. Rich Santiago, (804) 734-4769 (DSN 687) or [richard.santiago3@conus.army.mil](mailto:richard.santiago3@conus.army.mil).

## **We salute our Quartermaster Noncommissioned Officers**



## ***Celebrating the Year of the NCO***



# 2009 PHILIP A. CONNELLY AWARDS PROGRAM WINNERS

The annual Philip A. Connelly Awards Program for Excellence in Army Food Service is cosponsored by the Department of the Army (DA) and the International Food Services Association (IFSEA). IFSEA is a professional organization consisting of civilian food service management professionals from across the commercial food service industry. They promote the continuing education of food service professionals and improve the already high quality of food, service, and professionalism found in the commercial private food service sector. The Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence (ACES), US Army Quartermaster Center and School, Fort Lee, Virginia, manages the Connelly Awards Program for the Department of the Army. Annually senior food management professionals from IFSEA and ACES are selected as evaluators to travel around the world and judge Army finalist units selected by their commands as their best garrison and field dining facilities. The objectives of the program are to improve the professionalism of Army food service Soldiers and Civilians, provide recognition for demonstrated excellence in the preparation and serving of food, and to provide an added incentive for continued improvement and education in Army food service operations through individual and unit recognition.

Named after a former IFSEA president, the Philip A. Connelly Awards began in 1968 to recognize outstanding Army food service operations on the job. The late Philip A. Connelly worked throughout his life to promote professionalism in food service, both in the civilian industry and the military services. He served on evaluation committees for the Army, Air Force, and Navy and was named Father of Armed Forces Food Service Awards. He is credited with more closely aligning military and civilian food service programs and with unifying goals in education, training, career development, and job opportunities.

This multilevel competition begins at the lowest level of Army food service operations. Because of the number of dining facilities and field kitchens in the Active Army, US Army Reserve, and US Army National Guard, Army commands and the installation management command regions hold internal command Connelly competitions to select their finalist units to represent their commands. These finalists then continue to do their everyday food service work in the final phase of the Connelly judging that is held from October through December. Evaluation committees visit each finalist. The evaluation committees consist of an IFSEA food service professional civilian team member and two Army senior food service professionals (one senior warrant officer and one senior noncommissioned officer) representing DA and ACES.

Army winners and runners-up will be recognized on 4 April 2009 at the 42nd Connelly Awards Ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia, at the IFSEA Conference. IFSEA provides the winners with a silver bowl and the runners-up with a plaque that will be presented by The Quartermaster General to two representatives from each unit. They will also receive national recognition through the IFSEA organization. The winners and runners-up will also receive DA funded training at the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Tucker, Georgia.



**SMALL GARRISON WINNER**  
82ND COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE DINING FACILITY  
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA



**SMALL GARRISON RUNNER-UP**  
11TH SIGNAL BRIGADE DINING FACILITY  
US ARMY NETCOM, 9TH SIGNAL COMMAND  
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA





**LARGE GARRISON WINNER**  
AAA-0 DINING FACILITY  
2ND BATTALION, 39TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA



**LARGE GARRISON RUNNER-UP**  
CSM LAWRENCE T. HICKY DINING FACILITY  
USAG GRAFENWOEHR  
GRAFENWOEHR, GERMANY



**ACTIVE ARMY FIELD KITCHEN WINNER**  
2ND BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM  
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA



**ACTIVE ARMY FIELD KITCHEN RUNNER-UP**  
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS  
402ND BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION,  
5TH BRIGADE, INFANTRY DIVISION  
FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON



**US ARMY RESERVE FIELD KITCHEN WINNER**  
828TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA



**US ARMY RESERVE FIELD KITCHEN RUNNER-UP**  
298TH MAINTENANCE COMPANY  
ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA



**US ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FIELD KITCHEN WINNER**  
1032ND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY  
VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
GATE CITY, VIRGINIA



**US ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FIELD KITCHEN RUNNER-UP**  
CHARLIE COMPANY, 422ND EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION  
LAS VEGAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



# SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS:

## *A PERSONAL APPEAL*

An old story tells of a desert nomad who awakened in the middle of the night. He lit a candle and began eating dates from a bowl beside his bed.

He took a bite from one and saw a worm in it so he threw it out of the tent. He picked up a second date, took a bite out of it, and found another worm. He threw that date out of the tent too. Then he picked up a third date, took a bite out of it, and found another worm. He threw that one away also.

He was very hungry, and reasoning that he wouldn't have any dates left to eat if he continued, he blew out the candle and quickly ate the rest of the dates.

Many of us are like that. We prefer darkness and denial to the light of reality. Heard someone say, "You may feel that you can't go on another moment, another day. Life may be absolutely unbearable. You may want to just close your eyes and cease to exist. But death does not come so easily. And although you cannot bear it, you still live on --- your heart still beats, your breath ceaselessly enters ..."

In the darkest moment or season of a person's life, a question may come, "Why should I live?" This seems like a question that should not be asked. And, I know there are many people who wished they were not considering it.

I realize I may be talking to you right now (or maybe you are reading this and thinking about someone you know). I want you to know there is hope for your situation and you do not have to suffer in silence. Help is available. I urge you to reach out to your battle buddy, Chaplain, friend, counselor, chain of command, mental health professional or [militaryonesource.com](http://militaryonesource.com) (1-800-342-9647). Let someone help you and come up with a plan to deal with what you are going through. Please. You don't know if the help will work until you ask ...

The light of reality – 143 Soldiers (with 15 others still pending final determination) completed suicide in 2008. We will not "blow out the candle" and pretend that we do not have a problem. Healthy Families do not do that. This is our Army Family. One suicide is too many. We double our effort.

"This is not 'business as usual'" ~ General Chiarelli. I am grateful to General Chiarelli, our Army Vice Chief of Staff. He is lighting a candle about our number of suicides – not willing to let any Soldier, DOD Civilian, contract civilian or Family member stand alone! I say, AMEN (after all, I am a Chaplain)! I light that candle too!

Quartermasters, Suicide Prevention and Awareness is about offering hope and options to real people with real problems. Brigadier General Cross, Quartermaster General, personally wants you to know, "There are more alternatives in this life than suicide." We unite together during the upcoming Army-wide stand down to highlight life alternatives, provide training, buddy aid, and sincere understanding. Here's to life!

Blessings!

Chaplain (MAJ) David V. Green  
Quartermaster Center and School, Chaplain

# UNITED STATES ARMY QUARTERMASTER CENTER AND SCHOOL

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